

Orangeburg County Soil & Water Conservation District

2006 Annual Report

Message From the Chairman...

The 365 days of our year go by faster and faster each year. The fast pace lives we live have got to be the reason.

Your Conservation District has been hard at work in 2006. We hope you will take a few minutes to read the attached Annual Report. We have continued to plan and implement education programs in Orangeburg County for the students and residents.

Because we believe education never ends, we will continue with training and programs in 2007. We are planning on conducting some "adult" training demonstrations in the up coming year. Please watch the Times and Democrat Farm Page for details and scheduled dates.

Your Soil and Water Commissioners will be involved in a self-assessment in January. We hope to identify projects that are working, those that need updating and perhaps some that are no longer useful. Our basic mission to educate and assist our citizens will remain the same. We welcome all volunteers and/or ideas to improve our service to the community.

Our Affiliate Members help us to do more . The donations you give are truly appreciated. These funds help to sponsor Envirothon Teams from our county and other educational programs and materials.

I hope all of you have a Happy 2007!

Sincerely,
B. Louise Hughes
Chairman

Commissioners:

B. Louise Hughes Chairman	George Ulmer Vice-Chairman	Buddy Felder Treasurer	Ewart Irick Secretary	Kenneth Ott Chaplin
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Commissioner Emeritus:

Larry Patrick, Judge James C. Williams, Clyde B. Livingston, Fred K. Norris, Jr.

Personnel Assisting the District

Conservation District

Glenda B. Lewis
District Manager

Diane D. Curlee
Education Coordinator

USDA-NRCS

(Natural Resources Conservation Service)

S. Frank Stephens

District Conservationist

Charles R. Holland
Soil Conservationist

Darryl V. Johnson
Soil Conservation Technician

SC Department of Natural Resources (SC DNR)
Jonathan Williams
Program Coordinator

USDA-NRCS
Sudie Thomas
Area Wildlife Biologist

All federal, state, and local programs and services provided through the Orangeburg Conservation District & USDA-NRCS are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.

Small Farms in Orangeburg County Focus of Tour by National USDA Officials



RC&D Coordinator Roy Todd answered questions about small farming in Orangeburg County.

National and state USDA officials recently toured two small farms in Orangeburg County. The tour highlighted conservation practices at the farms of **Ty Pritcher** and **Stephen Jeremiah**. Participants on the tour included newly appointed USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Arlen Lancaster from Washington, DC, and NRCS South Carolina State Conservationist Walt Douglas. "We wanted to highlight the importance of conservation on small farms for the chief and his staff, and we chose Orangeburg County because of the outstanding conservation ethic of the producers and landowners in this part of the state," said Douglas.

Pritcher is a small farmer in Holly Hill with nearly 50 acres produc-

ing cattle and truck crops. His operation was improved with fencing, water troughs, and pasture and hayland management practices. Stephen Jeremiah farms 140 acres in Vance and is aiming to improve his truck crop operation with irrigation water management. Pritcher has already received financial and technical assistance through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

EQIP offers assistance to small-scale farmers and landowners who have historically not participated in nor ranked high enough to be selected for an EQIP contract. Small farmers often do not have the resources or size to compete with larger operations and therefore do not score high enough in the com-

petitive ranking process to qualify for the program. Assistance is available to landowners and producers with an entire farming operation of 197 acres or less.

Orangeburg NRCS District Conservationist Frank Stephens and Soil Conservationist Charles Holland coordinated the tour, along with NRCS Small Farmer Liaison Wilfred Pace. "We are proud of the farming successes we have here in Orangeburg County, and Mr. Jeremiah and Mr. Pritcher are excellent stewards of the land," said Stephens.

For more information about assistance for small farmers or about other NRCS programs, contact the Orangeburg USDA Service Center at (803) 534-2409x.3, or visit their national web site: www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov.

Since 1935, the NRCS (originally called the Soil Conservation Service) has provided leadership in a partnership effort to help America's private land owners and managers conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources.

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Holly Hill

Phase II



In September 2006 work began on Phase II of the Holly Hill Flood Prevention Project. The project consists of 6.5 miles of new channel and improvement of existing channels, which will reduce the flooding potential in and around the Town of Holly Hill in eastern Orangeburg County. USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Orangeburg Conservation District are working in cooperation with Orangeburg County to

make the long-anticipated flooding improvements a reality for Holly Hill residents and landowners.

The project includes an extensive series of road crossings and pipe systems both outside and inside the city limits of town. A component of the project is the Home Branch diversion, which will re-route flood water from Home Branch to Target Swamp and reduce the potential for flooding

during extended periods of heavy rainfall.

The major funding source for the Holly Hill Phase II is the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service's Small Watershed program. USDA-NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Darryl Johnson of the Orangeburg Field Office is providing layout and installation inspection services for the project.

2006 USDA-NRCS Summary

Because of our many conservation-minded farmers and landowners and their efforts to improve the land, USDA-NRCS had another successful year in protecting and enhancing the natural resources of Orangeburg County. The highlights of those activities are as follows:

USDA-NRCS developed **conservation plans** on 2934 acres which included cropland, grazing

land and wildlife management land, to protect and enhance the natural resources of Orangeburg County.

USDA-NRCS planning and implementation activities resulted in the **reduction of damage from erosion** on 571 acres, which saved 7846 tons of soil on agricultural land in Orangeburg County.

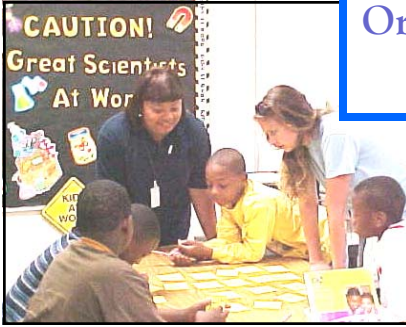
USDA-NRCS planning and implementation activities **improved wildlife habitat** on 252 acres in the county.

USDA-NRCS planning and implementation activities **improved grazing land for livestock** on 170 acres.

USDA-NRCS completed **wetland restoration** activities on 805 acres of degraded wetlands.

USDA-NRCS programs brought **\$289,816** in conservation cost-share funds to our county in 2006, which will help our farmers and landowners install a variety of conservation measures to make Orangeburg County a better place to live and work.

Orangeburg County Conservation District Earth Team Wins Awards



The Orangeburg County Field Office reported 1,447 hours of volunteer service to the S.C. Earth Team, second place in the state. **The Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College Associate Degree Nurse students** gave 743 hours of service, which was the second highest in the state for a group. The Farm Safety Day Group gave a total of 450 hours of service, which was the third highest in the state for a group.

Make A Splash and the *Progressive Agriculture* Safety Day events would not be possible without the volunteers that give hours to prepare for the event and present lessons at the event. At the *Progressive Agriculture* Safety Day event held at Rivelon Elementary School on October 27 the student nurses divided into groups to present the following programs:

Brain Minders I and II (this program is sponsored by the Pilot Club of Orangeburg), Brain Minders I is presented to grades Pre-K through second grade and Brain Minders II is presented to grades second through fourth. **Sun Safety and 911** is presented to the third through fifth graders.

Bicycle Safety which includes fitting each child with his or her personal helmet totals a minimum of one hundred students.

Make A Splash is a water conservation event. The student nurses assist at various stations. They conducted two activities, Water Concentration and Water Addresses. They assisted with set up and taking down the stations and getting water to the presenters.

Recently the A D N students received the **Outstanding Community Health Project for 2006 Award** presented by the Student Nurses' Association of South Carolina at the state convention for their participation in Make A Splash.

In addition, the A D N students received other state awards at their state convention for their participation in our programs. The A D N students were recognized by the Student Nurses' Association of South Carolina receiving the: **Outstanding Community Health Program** which included Brain Minders Presentations, Sun and Bike Safety programs, and fitting children with Bike Helmets. Their third award was also by the SNA-SC, **The Most**

Break Through To Nursing Points.

This is a coveted award since points are accumulated by the number of community activities the students are involved in, the number of meetings they attend, etc. and since these students do so much with community organizations, (Orangeburg County Soil & Water Conservation District, Council on Aging, Safe Kids Super Saturday, etc.) they really do well in this. Yvonne Dudderar, A D N Instructor reported: Clemson University School of Nursing and USC... The big schools do not have a third of the exposure to the community our students have even when they have 300-400 nursing students in their schools... Our little old college really gets out in the community. Other schools are astounded at the activity these folks have and handle class and clinical hours too.

We are proud of these students. They are excellent volunteers and these awards are well deserved. We expect to continue to work with O-C Technical College ADN students for years to come.

RC&D Project Provides Outdoor Classroom for Edisto Primary School



Above the second graders show off their new outdoor classroom accessories.

The second graders at Edisto Primary School of Orangeburg Consolidated District Four are the recipients of an outdoor classroom furnished through a grant made possible by the Edisto-Savannah RC&D. The writing stations and benches will encircle a double-sided kiosk. The sidewalk next to the building is lined with birdfeeders filled with sunflower and thistle seeds. The next part of the project will be planting the willow and laurel oaks. **Mrs. Betty Ashley, Science Coordinator** for the school and **Mr. Barry Hawkins, FFA Instructor** and a few of the second graders were on hand to help unload supplies that the Conservation District delivered.



Above the second graders help install a bench that was built by the FFA students at Edisto High School under the direction of Mr. Hawkins.

2006 Affiliate Members

Walter Dantzler
William DeLorme
Charles O. Farnum, III
Richard Fralick
J. L. Gramling
Edmund H. Hardy
Mason & Louise Hughes
Bradley, Tracy & Skyler Hutto
R. Barry Hutto
William McPherson
Jim Mullis
Robert & Ann Polin

Top Supporter 2006 —

Bruce & Lynette Proctor
James L. Townsend, Jr.
James C. Williams
Bear Spring Farm - J. Hayne Culler, Jr.
Carolina Fresh Farms
Edisto Electric Coop.
Engineering Resources
Farmers and Merchants Bank
Fogle Brothers Construction Company
Horse Range Farms
Jameson Farms
Millwood Farms

Waste Management

Mixson Seed Company
Orangeburg Milling
Orangeburg Pharmacy
Pritchard, Salley & Associates
Rotema Farms
Sanders Farm
Shady Grove Nursery
Springfield Grain
Star Redi Mix
The McCarthy Group
Tri-County Electric
Triple A Farms

2007 Calendar

JANUARY

3-6 State Conference

ANNUAL REPORT Completed

(Jan.-March) Call for info on
SC Institute for Natural Resource
Conservation 11th & 12th Graders
2007 (scholarship opportunity)

FEBRUARY

**NACD Annual Meeting—
LA County, California
MARCH**

**15 Scholarship Deadline
SC Chapter Soil & Water Society
March 30-31
EEASC Spring Conference
to be held at Furman University**

APRIL

**15 Ethics forms deadline
22 Earth Day
22-28 National Wildlife Week
29 Soil Stewardship Week Begins**

MAY

4-6 Rose Festival

**4 SC Envirothon Competition
6 Soil Stewardship Week Ends**

JUNE

**Home Safety Camp
(Boys & Girls Club)**

**Lander University
SC Institute for Natural Resource
Conservation
(Scholarship opportunity)**

**Action Today
(SCDHEC & SC Energy Office)**

JULY

SENACD Meeting

AUGUST

**Cultural Awareness
Information available for
Carolina Coastal Adventure
(9th and 10th Graders)**

SEPTEMBER

**Safe Kids Super Saturday
Make A Splash**

OCTOBER

**Orangeburg County Fair
Fire Prevention Week
Earth Science Week**

NOVEMBER

**5-7 SECDEA Annual Meeting
Pigeon Forge, TN
15 America Recycles Day**

DECEMBER

7 SC Arbor Day

**THE FUNCTION OF THE
CONSERVATION**

DISTRICT

**TO TAKE AVAILABLE
TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL AND
EDUCATIONAL
RESOURCES,
WHATEVER THEIR SOURCE,
AND FOCUS OR
COORDINATE THEM SO THAT
THEY MEET THE NEEDS
OF THE LOCAL LAND USER
FOR CONSRVAION OF SOIL,
WATER AND
RELATED RESOURCES.**

**Orangeburg County Soil &
Water Conservation District**

Orangeburg County Agricultural Building
1550 Henley Street, NE Room 103
Orangeburg, S.C. 29115

Phone: 803-534-2409x.3

FAX: 803-536-5827

Email: Glenda.Lewis@sc.nacdnet.net

Diane.Curlee@sc.nacdnet.net

WE ARE ON THE WEB: On SC Department of Natural Resources

(SC DNR) Site: www.dnr.sc.gov

On their site click on the heading -Land. On Land, on the left-hand side of the page, click on Conservation Districts. On this page, follow the directions to reach our information.

If you have difficulties, please give us a call.

The Orangeburg County SWCD Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, except July and December. The meetings are open to the public. The meetings are held in the Orangeburg County Agricultural Building in Room 205. 1550 Henley St., NE, Orangeburg, S.C. at 5 PM.

*Conservation District
Loses Friend and Sup-
porter - Robert Polin,
Commissioner Emeritus*

He passed from this life to the next on May 20, 2006. He served many years on the conservation board. Mr. Polin made his living as a farmer. He lived in the same house he was born in his entire life in his native Elloreë. His main crops were cotton and soybeans. His farm produced hay and cattle.

He helped the conservation district by recruiting affiliate members and furthering the cause of conservation by practicing it on his farm.

He served on the boards of the Tri-County Electric Coop and Farm Credit for over 20 plus years. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Elloreë.

*Carolina Coastal
Adventure 2006*

James Andrew Singletary, Midlands Christian Academy; Brandy McDaniel, Home School and Ryan Bruner, Edisto High School spent a weekend at camp near Pinopolis. They enjoyed a multitude of outdoor adventures including canoeing at Cypress Gardens, hearing a Gullah Storyteller, and taking a trip through the locks near Fort Johnson.

*SC Institute for Natural
Resource Conservation
(SCINRC) at
Lander University*

Judson Riser, a junior at Bowman Academy, was sponsored by the Orangeburg County Soil and Water Conservation District to attend the week long camp. He lived in the Lander residence halls and attended programs on campus and in the field focusing on water quality, boating safety, wildlife and wildlife management, soil composition, geology and other topics.

If you are interested in more information about Carolina Coastal Adventure 2007 or SC Institute for Natural Resource Conservation camps, call us.